

Voice Finds Slang Tough to Translate

By Jerry Kluttz

Story: It happened the other day during the translating session at the Voice of America. A speech was being translated into a score of different languages to be broadcast around the world.

In the speech was the American slang expression "double-crossed." Several translators groped for the correct words to express the thought in foreign languages. A Russian language expert who had a religious background translated it to "twice-blessed," a literal meaning.



Kluttz

Budget Cut? There is talk in Congress of cutting the budget of the Civil Service Commission to discipline the agency for its active role in carrying out the President's equal job policy. Chairman John W. Macy is the target of the bloc, which is composed mainly of Southerners.

Rep. Roberts (D-Ala.) told the House that CSC's 22-million-dollar budget would be considered soon and he questioned the need for it because of the President's job policy which he said resulted in preference being given Negroes. Said he:

"To attempt to make up for mistakes by disregarding the merit system will obviate the need for CSC and we will be expending Federal funds without purpose."

Clerical Exam: The box score is in on the nationwide exam for Grade 2 and 3 clerical jobs. More than 12,000 applied for the CSC test but only 8298 took it at 403 examining points.

Only 1681, or 20.5 per cent, of the competitors passed the test and several hundred of them have been offered jobs. As expected, the rate of refusals also is high for the low-paid positions.

Dual Employment: The House CS Committee will rewrite the bill proposed by the Kennedy administration to and conflicting dual pay laws and rules.

Every witness before the

Committee endorsed the move to overhaul the present system but many differed on how it should be done.

William E. Hall, of the Air Force Association, said the Administration bill would bring into the Federal civilian service only those retired military people who are "desperate and mediocre." He suggested a "best man" formula which would limit the bill to officers who retire after 20 years.

For the officers, the Association suggested there be no restriction on their military retirement and civilian pay; that their rights under veterans' preference be restricted, and that only the best man be given a civilian job. It would exempt enlisted men and said that to bring them in under its restrictions, as proposed by CSC, would be "a breach of faith."

Alexander Jackson, of the Reserve Officers Association, also objected to any pay penalties against retired military people who take civilian CS jobs. He supported modification of veterans' preference for them as proposed by the American Legion and VFW.

William M. Rein of the Association of Regular Army Sergeants, objected to extending the dual pay law to enlisted persons, and to plans to restrict veterans' preference in their retirement-civilian pay.

Meeting Set

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9 to 4:30

Veterans May Win Changes in Old Law

By JOHN CRAMER

Major veterans organizations seem almost certain to win substantial changes in the legislation the Administration has proposed to modernize Government's antiquated dual compensation laws.

These laws control the total of combined retired pay and salary which can be drawn by retired military people in civilian Government jobs. They place a \$2500 limit on some, a \$10,000 limit whatever, and no limit whatever on many others.

The veterans groups don't oppose Administration proposals to make almost all future military retirees hired by Government subject to a uniform formula under which they would draw full civilian pay, plus the first \$2000 of retired pay, plus half of the remainder.

But they strongly object to proposals for the elimination of veterans preference for military careerists hired in the future.

This preference takes two forms:

- Hiring preference for veterans over non-veterans.
- On-the-job preference which lets the veteran count his military service towards extra annual leave in a civilian Government job, extra job retention credits, and extra Civil Service retirement benefits.

PROPOSAL

The Administration has proposed that this preference be eliminated for almost all veterans with at least six years of continuous military service. Only exception would be

those with combat-connected disability.

Without exception, the major veterans groups have told Congress that this exception is too narrow. All have urged that it be broadened to include all types of service-connected disability.

Without exception, too, the veterans groups have recommended that present hiring preference be continued for all veterans, regardless of the

length of their military service.

But on the matter of on-the-job preference, the veterans groups disagree.

The AMVETS want it continued for all veterans except those retired for length of service.

The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign War propose that only military service in time of war should count towards extra leave, retention credit, and retirement benefits in civilian jobs.

30-Year Bill

Civil Service Commission Chairman John Macy yesterday told the House Civil Service Committee there's "no demonstrable social need" for the so-called 30-year retirement bills for Federal employees.

These bills would let 30-year-employees retire, on un-reduced annuities at age 55—or even earlier.

Despite Administration opposition, they seem increasingly likely to win Congressional approval this year.

Mr. Macy told the Committee there's growing belief "that it is important for the economic good of our country that the skills and experience of older people be utilized rather than wasted in retirement." Also, he said, medical authorities "stress the psychological importance of keeping older people engaged in useful and needed work as long as they are physically able."

The CSC chairman also made a pitch for the Administration bill to bolster the Civil Service Retirement Fund by requiring gradually stepped-up contributions from Federal agencies.

Insiders hint that official opposition to the 30-year bill might vanish quickly if Congress decided to vote the re-financing plan along with it.

OTHERS

Other witnesses yesterday included:

Vaux Owen, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees—He saw the 30-year bill as a weapon against unemployment brought on by automation.

John F. Griner, president of the AFL-CIO American Federation of Government Employees—He said the issue is a simple one: "If the Federal Government makes the Civil Service attractive enough for an employee to remain in his job until age 60, future requirements will not be unduly increased by the 30-year bill."

Henry Stoffer, executive vice president of the National League of Postmasters—He said the League favors initially restricting 30-year retirement to employees who have reached 55. This, he said, would provide a test which would demonstrate whether even earlier retirement is justifiable.